

U.S. Application No.10/076,566

500.41209X00

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering unit, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval condition key requests issued by users;

a duplicate integrating repetition eliminating unit, said duplicate integrating repetition eliminating unit combining duplicates eliminating repetitions of said retrieval condition key requests requested in differing said retrieval condition key requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated a repetition-free retrieval condition key request to lessen thereby reduce a number of retrieval condition key requests;

a retrieval device unit, said retrieval device unit retrieving information from the databases on the basis of contents of said integrated repetition-free retrieval condition key request integrating said retrieval condition requests to obtain retrieval condition results; and

an output creating unit, said output creating unit creating, on the basis of the retrieval condition key requests issued by the users and said retrieval condition

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results, retrieval condition results data to be sent to said users when information is retrieved from said databases.

2. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein in said retrieval reservation registering unit, duplicates repetitions are checked and eliminated in said retrieval condition key requests which exist at present and in the past so as to integrate retrieval conditions create the repetition-free key request.

3. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 2, wherein said retrieval device unit edits said retrieval condition results data [[in]] according to a predetermined format [[by]] that is specific to each user, by checking duplicates repetitions of the retrieval condition key requests issued by users respectively, and sends said edited retrieval condition results data to said users respectively on the basis of retrieval conditions key requests desired by said users, said retrieval condition results data being acquired on the basis of said repetition-free retrieval key request integrated retrieval conditions.

4. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3, wherein upon editing of said retrieval condition results by user, said retrieval device unit eliminates duplicates repetitions in contents from said retrieval condition results desired by each of said users and integrates said retrieval condition results by each of said users when there are said duplicates repetitions in contents of said retrieval condition

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results, so that said retrieval device unit sends the edited [[said]] content-repetition-free retrieval condition results data to said user.

5. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 2, comprising a method in which at least one previously retrieved result is held in said retrieval reservation registering unit, so that, when a user issues a retrieval condition key request, said user selects on a basis of information freshness desired by the user to acquire a retrieval condition result from said held at least one previously retrieved result among a predetermined time interval or to execute a new retrieval from original data.

6. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3, wherein, when there are duplicates repetitions in retrieval condition key requests among users and said retrieval condition requests are integrated repetitions are eliminated to thereby acquire said retrieval condition results, said retrieval device unit[[,]] makes, on the basis of retrieval, copies of said retrieval condition results, integrates duplicates eliminates repetitions in said retrieval condition results by each of the users, and sends thus modified said retrieval condition results to said respective users issuing said requests for said retrieval condition results data.

7. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein said retrieval device unit acquires or sends retrieval condition results in accordance with

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said retrieval condition key requests at predetermined intervals of time on the basis of predetermined information freshness.

8. (currently amended) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval condition key requests issued by users;
~~combining duplicates~~ eliminating repetitions of said retrieval condition key requests requested in differing said retrieval condition key requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an ~~integrated~~ a repetition-free retrieval condition key request to lessen thereby reduce a number of retrieval condition key requests;

retrieving information from databases on the basis of contents of said ~~integrated~~ repetition-free retrieval condition key request ~~integrating~~ integrating said registered retrieval condition requests to obtain retrieval condition results; and

creating, on the basis of said retrieval condition key requests issued by users and said retrieval condition results, retrieval condition results data to be sent to said users, and sending said retrieval condition results data to said users when information is retrieved from said databases.

9. (currently amended) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval condition key requests issued by users;

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integrating said creating a repetition-free retrieval condition requests key request by eliminating duplicates repetitions in said retrieval condition key requests; retrieving information from said databases by using said integrated repetition-free retrieval condition requests and acquiring key request to acquire retrieval condition results;

generating duplicates repetitions of retrieval condition results from said acquired retrieval condition results;

editing said duplicates repetitions of retrieval condition results on the basis of said retrieval condition key requests; and

integrating said duplicates of creating a repetition-free retrieval result results of said retrieval condition by eliminating duplicates repetitions from said retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.

10. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering unit, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval condition key requests issued by users;

a repetition-free retrieval condition requests integrating key request creating unit, said repetition-free retrieval condition requests integrating key request creating unit integrating said creating a repetition-free retrieval condition requests key request by eliminating duplicates repetitions in said retrieval condition key requests;

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a retrieval unit, said retrieval unit retrieving information from said databases by using said ~~integrated retrieval condition requests and acquiring repetition-free retrieval key request to acquire~~ retrieval condition results;

a duplicate repetition generating unit, said duplicate repetition generating unit generating duplicates repetitions of retrieval condition results from said acquired retrieval condition results;

a retrieval condition results editing unit, said retrieval condition results editing unit editing said duplicates repetitions of retrieval condition results on the basis of said retrieval condition key requests; and

a retrieval condition results integrating repetition-free retrieval result creating unit, said retrieval condition results integrating repetition-free retrieval result creating unit ~~integrating said duplicates of retrieval condition results~~ creating a repetition-free retrieval result by eliminating duplicates repetitions from said retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.

11. (currently amended) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval condition key requests issued by users;
~~combining said retrieval condition requests~~ creating a repetition-free retrieval key request by eliminating duplicates repetitions existing in differing said retrieval condition key requests;

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retrieving retrieval condition requests results from said databases by using said ~~integrated-retrieval-condition-requests~~ repetition-free retrieval key request;

generating ~~duplicate~~ repetitive retrieval condition results from said retrieval condition results;

editing ones of said ~~duplicate~~ repetitive retrieval condition results on a basis of said retrieval condition key requests; and

~~integrating said duplicate retrieval condition results creating a repetition-free retrieval result~~ by eliminating ~~Duplicates~~ repetitions from said repetitive retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.

12. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering unit, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval condition key requests issued by users;

~~a retrieval-condition-requests-integrating repetition-free retrieval key request creating unit, said retrieval-condition-requests-integrating repetition-free retrieval key request creating unit creating a repetition-free retrieval key request combining said retrieval-condition-requests by eliminating duplicates~~ repetitions existing in differing said retrieval condition key requests to produce integrated retrieval condition requests;

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a retrieval device unit, said retrieval device unit retrieving retrieval condition results from said databases by using said ~~integrated retrieval condition requests~~ repetition-free retrieval key request;

a ~~duplicate repetitive retrieval result~~ generating unit, said ~~duplicate repetitive retrieval result~~ generating unit generating ~~duplicate repetitive~~ retrieval condition results from retrieval condition results;

a retrieval condition results editing unit, said retrieval condition results editing unit editing said ~~duplicate repetitive~~ retrieval condition results on a basis of said retrieval condition key requests; and

a retrieval condition results integrating repetition-free retrieval result creating unit, said ~~retrieval condition results integrating~~ repetition-free retrieval result creating unit ~~integrating said~~ duplicate retrieval condition results creating a repetition-free retrieval result by eliminating duplicates repetitions from said repetitive retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.